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REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Economic - Electric power
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED USSR
 DATE PUBLISHED 23 Sep 1951 - 11 Mar 1952
 LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951 - 1952

DATE DIST. 14 May 1952

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

REPORT FAILURES OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN USSR[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]RSFSR

In Michurinskiy Rayon of Tambov Oblast, 15 electric power stations including eight GEE have been built during the last few years. Some of them are completely idle and others are not utilized to full capacity and therefore operate at a loss. Poor maintenance and a general state of disrepair, together with a shortage of qualified worker-specialists, are responsible.(1)

Ukrainian SSR

Construction of rural electric power stations in the Ukraine is expanding, even though management of rural electrification is rather unsatisfactory because of the lack of special organs for it on the oblast and rayon levels. Moreover, there are no qualified persons to take over the job of management in the agricultural departments and administrations. The planning and designing officers attached to the oblast agricultural administrations are not interested in designing rural electric power stations since they consider rural electrification a sideline. Consequently, some of the kolkhozes wishing to build an electric power station have to locate a planning organization for the job on their own.

Plans and designs are very often made without any regard for the financial condition of the kolkhoz concerned, or the possible expansion of the station in the future. Plans are frequently prepared without proper surveys. For instance, the plan for a GES in Tal'novskiy Rayon did not include consideration of available water resources. As a result, the Kolkhoz imeni Stalin lost 18,000 rubles because construction had to be stopped. In Poltava, Sumy, and Nikolayev Oblasts there are no planning organizations under agricultural administrations, and projects are prepared by Sel'elektro with very much the same results. In Kiev Oblast alone, the construction of about 50 electric

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power stations was never completed because of the shortage of kolkhoz funds. There is a large GES in Dzhulinskiy Rayon of Vinnitsa Oblast which has not been completed for the same reason. Of 144 kolkhoz electric power stations in operation, 85 are used for lighting only.

The kolkhozes do not receive any assistance for the efficient and full utilization of available electric power. It is high time that the kolkhozes were given permanent and qualified assistance in the operation and maintenance of their power stations. At present, there are very few technicians and electricians to take care of the stations and the transmission network.

In the summer, many kolkhoz and rural GES operate at a much reduced capacity or not at all because of the low water level of the rivers. This could be avoided by building reservoirs to catch flood and rain water. There is no office to organize such an undertaking, which is beyond the means of an individual kolkhoz. There is an acute need for such organizations and for an inter-kolkhoz engineering enterprise to overhaul and repair the equipment installed at the power stations as well as at the kolkhozes.(2)

The Ukrainian branch of Giprosel'elektro of the Ministry of Agriculture USSR which plans and designs rural GES is very slow and its work is not always of the highest quality. For instance, surveying and planning for the Steblevskaya GES on the Ros' River took over 3 years, and the surveys as well as the plans prepared for the construction of the Korzhevskaya GES on Sluch' River proved unsatisfactory. Usually, construction of inter-kolkhoz power stations is organized very poorly and the work itself is of inferior quality. Construction of a large GES on the Yuzhnyy Bug River near Konstantinovka in Arbuzinskiy Rayon of Nikolayev Oblast, which was supposed to begin in spring 1951, had not yet started in February 1952. The Vinnitsa Administration of Zhilgrazhdanstroy is building a GES on the Yuzhnyy Bug River at Sabarov village; the work has not yet been completed, but the concrete spillway of the dam already has large cracks in three spots.(3)

Georgian SSR

The generator at the power station of Shaumyani village in the Georgian SSR is driven by an engine manufactured in 1900. The engine wore out beyond repair a long time ago, and negotiations for its replacement have been in progress for years without results.(4)

Uzbek SSR

Construction of the Aktepinskaya inter-kolkhoz GES began several years ago and was completed at last in October 1951. The majority of the kolkhozes which were supposed to be served by the GES still do not have electricity. On the other hand, the GES is operating at one third of its capacity for lack of consumers, because of the absence of transmission lines to bring power to the kolkhozes. Uzbeksel'elektro, which built the GES, did not bother to build a transmission line and gave the excuse that no project had been prepared for a line.(5)

Turkmen SSR

Rural electrification in the Turkmen SSR is progressing very slowly and is lagging far behind the needs of the population. The work of Turkmensel'elektro is unsatisfactory, and only six of the nine GES which were to be completed in 1950 have been finished. It was planned to have 25 kolkhoz GES under construction in 1951 and to put 13 of them into operation by the end of

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the year. However, by the end of September, only one GES -- Moldar No 2 in Kaakhhinskiy Rayon -- was completed, and only eight others were under construction. The reasons are a shortage of labor and materials.(6)

Tadzhik SSR

The progress of rural electrification in Tadzhik SSR cannot be considered satisfactory; none of the year plans have been fulfilled for years, including 1951. This is the result of the poor work of Sel'elektro. In some cases construction work on GES was started without preparing plans and specifications. Of course, this resulted in waste of money and labor, since the GES thus constructed could not be operated.

Only two thirds of the kolkhozes earmarked for electrification in 1951 were actually electrified. Introduction of electric power for agricultural work is very slow. In 1951, there were only a few dozen electric motors installed in the kolkhozes; much labor-consuming kolkhoz work is still awaiting electrification. Construction work is also very slow, and the Kzyl Tumshuk state kolkhoz GES in Kagánovichbadskiy Rayon which was started in 1949 is not yet completed. Progress of construction of GES in Pendzhikentskiy and Kzyl-Mazarakiy rayons is extremely unsatisfactory. The Ministries of Agriculture and of Cotton Growing gave very little assistance; the latter in particular delays the approval of projects for 3 or 4 months without reason. There is practically no building machinery in use at the construction site, but there is an acute shortage of construction labor and personnel for operating power stations.

Neither Sel'elektro nor the Ministry of Cotton Growing has done anything so far to train the badly needed builders and electricians. Operation and maintenance of the kolkhoz electric power stations and substations is extremely unsatisfactory in the majority of cases. There are no established plans for the regular repair and overhaul of equipment, or regulations for maintenance, operation, and safety, and Sel'elektro, which is responsible, does not have any qualified personnel. Very little of the enormous water power available in Tadzhik SSR is being exploited.(7)

SOURCES

1. Michurinsk, Michurinskaya Pravda, 23 Sep 51
2. Moscow, Izvestiya, 22 Feb 52
3. Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 22 Feb 52
4. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 21 Nov 51
5. Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 11 Mar 52
6. Ashkhabad, Turkmeneskaya Iskra, 23 Oct 51
7. Frunze, Kommunist Tadzhikistana, 2 Mar 52

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